

Application No. 09/886,266  
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116  
Reply to Office Action dated July 28, 2005  
December 22, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers, respectively:

Claim 1 (Cancelled):

Claim 2 (Original): A solid state imaging device which comprises a clamping means which matches a signal level of an optical black section outputted from a solid state imaging element to a constant value, in which said clamping means comprises:

a first amplifier means which inputs the output of said solid state imaging element at one of its input terminals;

a first sampling means, which includes a switch which goes ON during said optical black section and a retention section, and which samples the output of said first amplifier means;

a target value setting means which sets a target value for output;

a second amplifier means which receives the output from said first sampling means and said target value level from said target value setting means via a low pass filter means, amplifies the

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difference between them, and inputs it to said first amplifier means;

a second sampling means which samples the output of said second amplifier means during a period when an output signal is obtained from said solid state imaging element;

a third amplifier means which amplifies the difference between an output of said second amplifier means and an output of said second sampling means; and

a switching means which connects an output terminal of said third amplifier means to said retention section of said first sampling means during a period in which no signal is being outputted from said solid state imaging element, and terminates this connection during a period in which a signal is being outputted from said solid state imaging element.

Claim 3 (Original): A solid state imaging device according to claim 2, in which said third amplifier means is a differential amplification device of the open loop type.

Claim 4 (Original): A solid state imaging device according to claim 2, in which said target value setting means comprises:

a D/A converter which converts the data of said target value

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to an analog signal; and

a buffer amp which impedance converts the output of said D/A converter.

Claims 5-15 (Cancelled):